

Application No. 09/976,537
Amendment dated June 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 15, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A nonwoven fabric, comprising a single homogeneous fibrous batt formed of fibers selected from the group consisting of: (1) carded cotton fibers; and (2) a carded blend of cotton fibers and synthetic fibers, whereupon the single fibrous batt is entangled by the application of hydraulic energy to opposite expansive surfaces of said fibrous batt to form a nonwoven fabric, said nonwoven fabric having highly entangled, opposite outer surface regions and a lightly entangled inner core region positioned between said highly entangled outer surface regions formed by application of hydraulic energy in the range of about 0.027 to 0.046 hp-hr/lb.

Claim 2 (canceled):

Claim 3 (canceled):

²
Claim ~~4~~ (previously presented): A nonwoven fabric as in claim 1, wherein the synthetic staple fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyacrylates, polyolefins, polyamides, polyesters and the combinations thereof.

Claim 5 (canceled).

³
Claim ~~6~~ (original): A nonwoven fabric as in claim 1, wherein the fabric is imaged by the application of hydraulic energy upon a three-dimensional image transfer device having a movable imaging surface.

⁴
Claim ~~7~~ (original): A nonwoven fabric as in claim 1, wherein the fabric further comprises one or more physical performance enhancing chemistries.

Application No. 09/976,537
Amendment dated June 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 15, 2004

Claim 8 (withdrawn): A method for making a nonwoven fabric, comprising;
providing a single fibrous batt,
impinging a fluidic stream upon said fibrous batt to form a nonwoven fabric,
said nonwoven fabric having an outer surface region and an inner core
region,

said fluidic stream imparting sufficient energy to highly entangle the outer
surface fibers wherein said energy is diffused to the point that the inner core fibers
are lightly entangled.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): A method as in claim 8 wherein the method further
comprises the application of hydraulic fluid upon a three-dimensional image transfer
device having a movable imaging surface.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A method as in claim 8 wherein the energy imparted to
the fibrous batt is in the range of about 0.027 to 0.046 hp-hr/lb.

Claim ⁵11 (currently amended): A cast padding material, comprising a single
homogeneous fibrous batt formed of fibers selected from the group consisting of: (1)
carded and cross-lapped cotton fibers; and (2) a carded and cross-lapped blend of
cotton fibers and synthetic fibers, whereupon the single fibrous batt is entangled by
the application of hydraulic energy to opposite expansive surfaces thereof to form a
cast padding material, said cast padding material having highly entangled, opposite
outer surface regions and a lightly entangled inner core region positioned between
said highly entangled outer surface regions formed by application of hydraulic
energy in the range of about 0.027 to 0.046 hp-hr/lb.